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Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, March 20, 2017, at 10 a.m.

House of Representatives

FRIDAY, MARCH 17, 2017

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Merciful God, thank You for giving us another day.

Your care and wisdom are shown to us by the way You extend Your kingdom into our world down to the present day. Your Word reveals every aspect of Your saving plan. You accomplish Your designed purpose in and through the hearts of the faithful who respond to You.

Today, convert our minds and hearts that we may become the great Nation You hope us to be.

Help the Members of the people's House to seek Your presence in the midst of their busy lives. Animate them with Your spirit, and help them to perform their appointed tasks to come to solutions that will redound to the benefit of our Nation.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. HARPER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. HARPER led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

TIMBER INNOVATION ACT

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, last week, with Rep-

resentative SUZAN DELBENE, I introduced the Timber Innovation Act to help find new and innovative uses for wood as a building material.

Proudly, the Allegheny National Forest is a part of the Fifth Congressional District of Pennsylvania. Communities in my district depend on the revenue from high-value timbering and forest products that are generated by the forest as well as privately held lands throughout the Commonwealth.

This bipartisan legislation encourages the advancement of tall wood building construction along with research and development.

Mr. Speaker, since our earliest days, we have used wood as a building material. New technology will help expand and develop the use of wood in larger construction projects. Currently, most wood buildings do not exceed three to four stories in height, but we hope to change that.

There is so much potential for mass timber, and this bill truly encourages new advancements of wood construction. This bill is good for both consumers and the industry, and I encourage my colleagues to support this bipartisan bill and advance the sustainable forest management and opportunities in our rural communities.

FIGHTING FOR RIGHTS AND EQUALITY

(Mr. LOWENTHAL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Speaker, since 2013 I have flown the pride flag outside my D.C. office in solidarity with the LGBT community. According to the House historian, I was the first to do so, a fact that I am very proud of.

Yesterday, outside my office in Washington, D.C., a man took that flag out of its holder, threw it on the ground, and stomped on it. He called the flag disgusting and immoral.

This flag is a symbol of pride for the LGBT community—an international symbol of love, understanding, equality, and hope.

The shadows of intolerance have grown longer in recent days: bomb threats called into Jewish community centers, desecrations of Jewish cemeteries, hate crimes against minorities and the transgender community, horrifically racist statements from a Member of this body.

To all our brothers and sisters who endure through these hateful acts, we stand with you, and we will continue to fight for your rights and your equality.

LISTENING TO EVERYBODY'S VOICE

(Mr. BOST asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, you can learn a lot when you listen. During times like these, when political infighting makes it difficult to hear everyone's voice, we need to try even harder.

Today I would like to encourage all of my constituents in the Illinois 12th District to visit bost.house.gov/yourstory to share your personal perspective on the Affordable Care Act. Again, that is bost.house.gov/yourstory.

If the law has helped you and your family receive care you needed, I want to hear about it. If the law has put you in a situation where you don't have insurance or have higher premiums, I want to hear about that, too.

It is important that we deal with this healthcare issue and reform it so that it works for all people. And for the people of southern Illinois, I want to hear your story.

HEALTH CARE IS COMPLICATED

(Mr. HUFFMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, President Trump has made some implausible statements recently, but one that certainly takes the cake on the issue of health care is when he said that nobody knew that health care could be so complicated.

Well, for President Trump and those who are attacking the Affordable Care Act, I would like to talk about one little boy who challenges this claim.

This week, of course, we know from the nonpartisan CBO just how dev-

astating the Trump-Ryan repeal would be for millions of Americans, including Rhett Krawitt, a 9-year-old boy who lives in my district.

Rhett battled and won a tough fight with leukemia. He spoke to a townhall in my district on Monday, where he said: "Thanks to the Affordable Care Act, my parents don't have to worry about losing coverage because I have a preexisting condition. My family knows exactly how much money our health care will cost. I can stay on my parents' plan and get medical insurance when I go to college and medical school."

And he added one more thing. He said: "I may only be 9 years old, but I have known for a long time that health care is complicated."

Mr. Trump, if only you had spoken to this 9-year-old before trying to gut health care for millions of Americans.

Let's not go backward on health care in this country.

REMEMBERING CAPTAIN ANDREW BECKER AND FIRST LIEUTENANT FREDERICK "DREW" DELLECKER

(Mr. DESANTIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DESANTIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my condolences to the families of the three Air Force officers who were killed in a plane crash earlier this week in New Mexico. Two of these officers had strong ties to the Sixth Congressional District in Florida, and particularly Volusia County.

Captain Andrew Becker graduated from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach in 2007. He was a great student, a real world beater. He did what many graduates of Riddle do. He served our country with honor and distinction, and we are thankful for his service to this country. We send our condolences to his wife.

First Lieutenant Drew Dellecker graduated from the Air Force Academy in 2013 after growing up in Volusia County. This special guy dedicated his life to serving our country and defending our freedoms. The Volusia County community is saddened by his loss; and his parents, Bill and Karen, are in our thoughts and prayers.

May God bless these fine young men, and may God bless their memory in the United States of America.

IRISH LESSONS

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I join with millions around the globe to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. The United States of America would not be the country we are today without the enormous contributions of millions of Irish immigrants and their descendants.

From serving in every war our country has ever faced and leading our country at every level of government, Irish Americans have done it all. Today, more than 33 million Irish Americans claim Irish ancestry.

Tragically, our country didn't always welcome the Irish. During the late 19th and 20th centuries, Irish arriving on our shores were met with contempt, disdain, and with signs that read, "Irish need not apply." But they persisted, and our country is all the better for it.

So, today, St. Patrick's Day, I thank you and say thank you to all the Irish men and women who helped shape the great country we are today.

Thank you, and happy St. Patrick's Day.

PROVIDING FOR THE EXPENSES OF CERTAIN COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES IN THE 115TH CONGRESS

Mr. HARPER. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on House Administration, I call up House Resolution 173 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 173

Resolved,

SECTION 1. COMMITTEE EXPENSES FOR THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTEENTH CONGRESS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—With respect to the One Hundred Fifteenth Congress, there shall be paid out of the applicable accounts of the House of Representatives, in accordance with this primary expense resolution, not more than the amount specified in subsection (b) for the expenses (including the expenses of all staff salaries) of each committee named in such subsection.

(b) COMMITTEES AND AMOUNTS.—The committees and amounts referred to in subsection (a) are: Committee on Agriculture, \$11,437,517; Committee on Armed Services, \$16,188,340; Committee on the Budget, \$10,380,424; Committee on Education and the Workforce, \$14,454,212; Committee on Energy and Commerce, \$20,531,442; Committee on Ethics, \$6,681,326; Committee on Financial Services, \$16,580,450; Committee on Foreign Affairs, \$15,673,986; Committee on Homeland Security, \$15,007,846; Committee on House Administration, \$10,343,130; Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, \$12,100,000; Committee on the Judiciary, \$15,350,572; Committee on Natural Resources, \$13,758,344; Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, \$18,259,682; Committee on Rules, \$6,460,562; Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, \$10,969,956; Committee on Small Business, \$6,287,037; Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, \$17,416,000; Committee on Veterans' Affairs, \$7,958,062; and Committee on Ways and Means, \$17,940,692.

SEC. 2. FIRST SESSION LIMITATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Of the amount provided for in section 1 for each committee named in subsection (b), not more than the amount specified in such subsection shall be available for expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2017, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2018.

(b) COMMITTEES AND AMOUNTS.—The committees and amounts referred to in subsection (a) are: Committee on Agriculture,